

It used to be that media companies had to prove that they were performing their public service in responsible ways to get the privilege of continued use of those publically owned airwaves to continue to make money. If they did not properly serve the public interest they were supposed to lose their license. The license for use of that frequency was then supposed to be given to a company that would properly serve the public interest. Now I understand that they no longer have to go through a rigorous relicensing process; they simply send in a postcard to reapply for their license and it is approved without anyone even reading the postcard. Has the FCC abdicated from its responsibilities?

Will appropriate public service be required in the future for use of the public airwaves and for interstate commerce using cable networks? Has this issue received full consideration? There is a public perception that it has not. If confidence in government is to be maintained the public has to be convinced that those responsible for making and carrying out the rules are doing their duty in full and responsible ways.

I think more complete public discussion is necessary before any changes are made in media rules. The public needs to know all the facts and all of the proposed changes, and have meaningful opportunities to respond, before any decisions are made. Let us keep and enforce the present rules until there has been a proper public discussion, with full public availability of and access to the information on this issue. If you consider rule changes necessary, publish the proposed changes with supporting reasons, including the full information used by you to reach your conclusions, then let the public and our elected representatives consider, discuss, and render opinions before any decision is made to put the changes into effect.